

Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr.  
Special Assistant, Intelligence  
Department of State  
Rm. 3126, New State Dept. Bldg.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated 11 January 1950, about clarifying Paragraph 2 in my circular memorandum of 7 December concerning the "Check List." As you state, the function of the Check List network is to provide timely warning of impending Soviet military action.

It was planned to clarify this with the members of the Check List group at the meeting scheduled for 17 January. Since it was impossible to get this group together at that time, I am sending copies of this letter to the other participating agencies with a view towards substituting the following for the paragraph 2 in my 7 December memorandum:

2. The objective of the Check List network is to provide timely warning of Soviet military action. To this end, the Check List network is expected

a. to focus the attention of intelligence analysts on specific political, economic, scientific, and military indicators (positive and negative) of Soviet intentions to resort to military action in the near future, and

b. to provide an effective mechanism for interagency exchange of views on this subject at the working level.

Very truly yours,

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R. H. HILLENKOTTER  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central  
Intelligence